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NEWS RELEASE

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United States Attorney Paul J. McNulty announced that Cheryl L. Kaminski, a Supervisory Accountant with the National Science Foundation (NSF) was sentenced today by the Honorable United States District Judge T.S. Ellis, III, to serve 20 weekends in jail as a condition of two years probation, and a \$1,000 fine. In addition, Kaminski was ordered to forfeit her government job and is prohibited from obtaining federal employment in the future. Kaminski, a federal employee since 1990, pled guilty in December 2003 to concealing, falsifying and destroying documents belonging to the United States of America.

The conviction resulted from an investigation by the NSF Office of Inspector General (OIG) into misuse of government travel cards. The OIG investigation revealed that between September 2000 and March 2003, Kaminski, who was in charge of NSF's Government Travel Card Program and whose job responsibilities included speaking and writing on the topic of misuse of government travel cards, used her own government travel card on approximately 47 occasions to make personal purchases or cash withdrawals with the card. Although Kaminski eventually paid her account off, she received delinquency notices on approximately a dozen occasions during that period.

In September 2001, when the OIG began an audit of NSF employees' use of travel cards, Kaminski removed records of her own transactions from documents she provided to the OIG for the audit, in order to conceal her own misuse of the card. Again, in February 2003, Kaminski provided sanitized records to the OIG which did not include records of her own misuse. During this time she prepared monthly reports to enable corrective action for employees who were delinquent or misusing their travel cards. She did not include her own personal charges on these reports, again to conceal her own misuse.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kathleen M. Kahoe.

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